

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor  
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59 Greenwood Road  
Andover, Mass. 01810

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## UPDATE ON RECENT PURE MASONIC ISSUES

In the previous newsletter we identified three new releases of Pure Masonic Stamps – those issued by El Salvador, Colombia, and Singapore. Copies of the El Salvador, and Colombia stamps have been received and have been provided to those who requested them; there are a very few of these from Salvador are still available and several of the Colombia issue. Bro. Larry Burden, a member in Canada has confirmed through the Singapore Postal Authorities that those shown in the previous newsletter are personal release stamps and were not officially issued. Another stamp bearing the Masonic Square and Compasses has been issued by Brazil – details on that stamp and the individual honored by its release are discussed later in this issue.



The El Salvador release was issued on September 18, 2012 for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Cuscatlan in that country. Your editor did receive a small second shipment of these stamps but at a higher cost than the initial group – \$9.00 per stamp plus shipping (or a SASE). I was able to acquire a number of the Colombia stamps which were issued on November 15, 2012 to commemorate the participation of the Masons in the Liberation movement which led to the foundation of the Republic. These are more reasonable at a cost of \$3.00 per stamp plus shipping (or a SASE).

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## UPCOMING MAJOR PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

Both groups with which we are associated are having their annual exhibition in the upcoming months. The American Topical Association will be holding their annual National Topical Stamp Show in conjunction with ROPEX 2013 on May 17-19, 2013 at the Rochester Main Street Armory, Rochester, NY. Details can be found at <http://americatopicalassn.org>

The American Philatelic Society STAMPSHOW will be held on August 8-11, 2013 at the Delta Center, Milwaukee, WI. Details are found at <http://stamps.org/STAMPSHOW-SS>

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

245. Gail M. Long, 380 Ponderosa St., Kalispell, MT 59901. She is a member of the ATA, the APS and Flathead Lake Chapter #128 O.E.S., Big Fork, MT

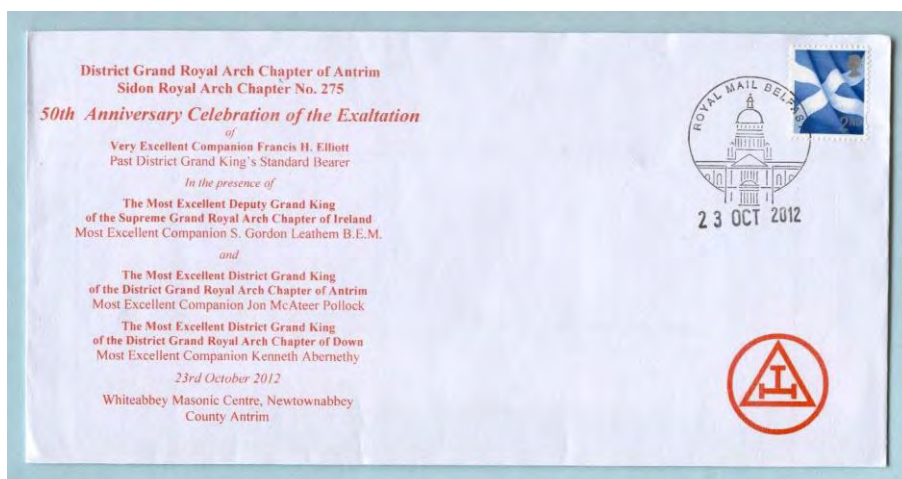
### **ADDRESS CHANGES:**

318. Richard C. Erskine, 358 Drummond Rd., Sidney, ME 04330-2415.

### **CLOSED ALBUMS:**

67. Roy Schwartz, late of Randolph, NJ 07869

Bro. Frank Elliott of Belfast, Northern Ireland sent his annual Christmas card to your editor along with his annual issuance of Special Event Covers of Installations and Communications within his sphere of influence. He was recognized at a special meeting of Sidon Chapter 275 on November 1, 2012 for his 50 years as a Royal Arch Mason. He received a 50-year medal and a Certificate of Service. There were 68 Companions in attendance from 17 Royal Arch Chapters and about two thirds of them had received their Royal Arch Degrees from Bro. Elliott. The cover for this event is shown here.



As was mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Bro. Joseph Samuel Daniel officiated as Installing Grand Director of Ceremonies at the Installation of the Grand Master of Israel on February 5, 2013. There were delegations present from the Germany UGL, Germany British FM, Germany-American Canadian, Alpina Switzerland, Chile, Turkey, Belgium RGL, Bulgaria UGL, Italy RGL, England, and Scotland. It must have been an impressive affair.

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### **MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION**

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## LUIZ GONZAGA do NASCIMENTO, SR.

Brazil, the country that has produced more Masonic stamps free of overprints than any other country, released a new Masonic stamp on December 13, 2012 in honour of Luiz Gonzaga do Nascimento, Sr. (1912-1989). The release date marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth in Exu, a city in the state of Pernambuco.



He was a prominent Brazilian folk singer, songwriter, poet and master of the accordion. Gonzaga was known for dressing in traditional costumes of his native northeastern state of Pernambuco and singing folk songs and performing traditional music of that region. To the people of Brazil he is known as the "king of baião and "Gonzagão".

After leaving the army in 1939 he moved to Rio de Janeiro with a used accordion and played on the street before participating in Ary Barroso's talent show. After he won the competition he went on to carve out a niche in the music industry and become a Brazilian national treasure. In the 1960's the public's taste in Brazilian music shifted from baião to "bosa nova" which resulted in his style waning in the cities, so he took his talents to the rural areas of Brazil where his popularity continued to grow.

He was a prominent Brazilian Freemason and even composed a song called "Acacia Amarela" (Yellow Acacia). Brother Gonzaga died of natural causes in Recife on August 2, 1989 at the age of 76 but his accomplishments live on in musical history. In a case of tragic irony and in an effort to thwart the world condemnation of the Itaparica Dam, that displaced over 40,000 inhabitants of his home state, the owners renamed it the Luiz Gonzaga Dam.

Joe Oliveira designed the stamp and he included the image of "Gonzagão" dressed in traditional costume wearing a northeastern cowboy leather hat, holding an accordion singing the one of his greatest hits "Asa Branca". Over his arm, a white bird flies into the clouds, symbolizing harmony musical singer. The top right corner depicts a crown, symbolic of the fact that his fans dubbed him the "King of Baião", capped off with the Masonic Square & Compasses, in recognition of his membership in Freemasonry.

The stamp is produced in gummed, offset sheets of 24, they are available from the Brazilian Postal Authority for approximately \$29. per sheet. Your Editor got some from another source but they are available for a cost of \$3.00 each plus a SASE.

-Article provided by Bro. Larry Burden, Bayside, New Brunswick, Canada

## VERMONT POSTAL HISTORY AND AUCTION

Wor. Bro. Peter Huntsman wrote an article some time ago regarding Vermont Postal History. I repeat some of it here. It is directed toward Vermont collectors but pertains to collectors of any state.

Collecting Vermont postmarks and postal history has now become very popular. The number of collectors has increased so it is harder to get many items to enlarge collections. On the other hand, these collectors have opened up this part of philately so more people are conscious of it and have dug out and kept many items that might have previously been thrown away. When you start breaking Postal History into small units as it is done in "The Postal History of Vermont", there is no end to the parts of Postal History that can be studied: the types of cancellations, dates, postmasters, railroads, etc. Being active in Masonic projects and groups I soon found out that there were many interesting Masonic sections to Postal History.

Perhaps the most interesting and hardest to come by are the actual Masonic cancellations. The Postmasters had to find some means of cancelling the mails; many used a simple pen marking to make the stamp unusable a second time. There were a few commercial cancellations but what was used most of the time were homemade devices using a piece of wood or cork. The Postmaster simply whittled out a design that suited him in his spare time – of which they had plenty. In the period of 1850-1880 many types of cancellations can be found – mostly on homemade devices. I am particularly interested in the Masonic cancellation - the Square and Compasses being the best known of the many types used. There is also "The Rutland Bible" or Open Book which is a well known Vermont Masonic. Others are the Trowel, The Triangle, the Letter "G" by itself as well as with the Square and Compasses. The famous Williston Masonic – a crescent with the Square and Compasses is another well known Vermont Masonic. Vermont Masonic cancellations are known to have been used in Williston, Rutland, Bethel, Arlington, Brattleboro, Bennington, Burlington, Island Pond, Shoreham, and Swanton. Other branches of Masonic Philately pop up - these include Corner Cards, Postal Cards, and other types of cards and covers themselves. Not only are they definitely Masonic Postal History but are interesting in themselves.

Bro. Peter has now retired to a home and his wife has asked me to handle the disposition of some of the Masonic items included in his multitude of collections, memorabilia, and accumulations. I have organized an Auction of those items which I believe are of interest to Masonic Philatelists and am offering them to the members of The Masonic Study Unit for their review and bidding. Because of the logistics associated with some of today's auctions, I am not considering "iterative" bidding – it will be a "one-shot" sequence. Bidders should determine what they would pay for an item and enter that bid. The highest bidder will win – at a reasonable advance over the next highest bidder. I am allowing sufficient time so that members who rely upon the mail system will be able to get the listing, evaluate it and send in a bid if they wish. Others who use e-mail can request the Auction catalog via that method. The closing date for the Auction is set as May 6, 2013.

There are 83 Lots in the Auction; they include Masonic Fancy Cancels on stamps (8), Masonic Fancy Cancels on Covers and Postal Cards (16), Stampless Covers and Letters (3), Masonic First Day Covers and Special Event Covers (13), Postal Cards with Masonic Content (2), Masonic Philatelic Pages w/Stamps (5), Corner Cards Envelopes and Covers Addressed to Lodges (14), Ephemera and Apparent Non-Masonic Items (16), Foreign Masonic Material (4), and Masonic Philately Reference Material (2). Many of the lots are illustrated – especially all the Fancy Cancels.

As mentioned above, the catalog can be obtained via an e-mail request at [radpm67@gmail.com](mailto:radpm67@gmail.com) It can also be requested by mail at Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Road, Andover, MA 01810 (a stamped self-addressed 6X9 envelope would be appreciated or the postage of \$0.66 in the US, \$1.10 in Canada, or \$2.05 overseas). A last resort would be to call me at 978-470-0583. I feel honored at being able to offer this material to our members and, through them, to members of the New York Masonic Stamp Club, the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain, The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club, De Maconnieke Filatelistische Studiegroep De Getande Rand of the Netherlands, the Associazione Italiano de Filatelia Massonica of Italy, and the Clube Filatelico Maconico do Brasil of Brazil.

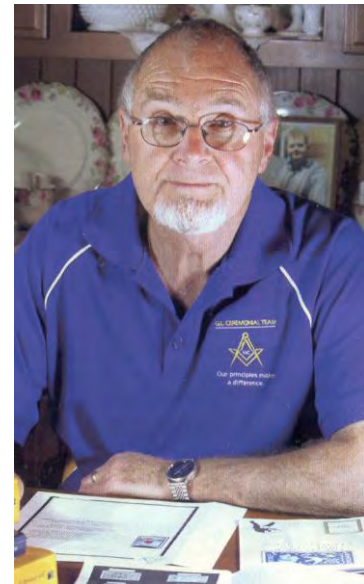
A few examples of some of the Lots are shown here.



## BRO. EDDIE LEVEY – GOING POSTAL

The Grand Lodge of Victoria found out about Eddie Levey's Masonic stamp collection and wanted an interview with him so they could feature it in the Summer issue of their magazine, *Freemasonry Victoria*. Bro. Levey was gracious enough to forward us a copy of that magazine which includes the output of that interview along with several of the photographs which they took. The text, his picture and some of the illustrations are reproduced here.

VWBro. Eddie Levey PGIWkgs joined Freemasonry as a Lewis in 1962. In 1982 he was Master of Mildura Lodge No. 170 and had his first visit to Dallas Brooks Center, where he saw a small collection of Masonic stamps on display in the Library. 'I was Grand Steward in the 1993-94 Grand Team' says Eddie, "and every time I was in Melbourne I would head for the library to view what stamps were on show. I'd been a stamp collector for many years collecting Australian and Channel Island stamps. I enquired at the library about the Masonic stamps on show and was able to view the Grand Lodge Masonic stamp collection. I've been collecting them ever since.

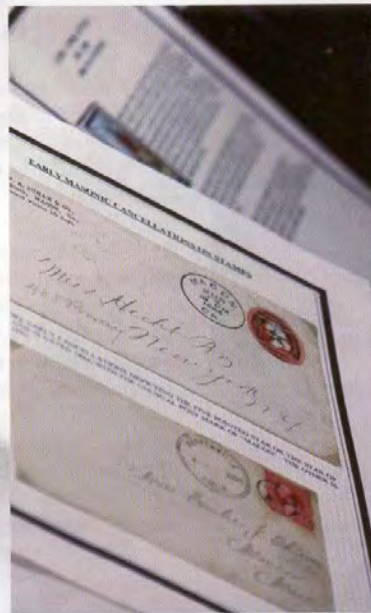


"I joined the Masonic Philatelic Club in Great Britain and The Philatelic Freemason in the USA in 1998 and have on many occasions supplied the two clubs with material on Freemasons on stamps in Australia. Over the years I have had the pleasure of displaying my collection in many different Lodges in Mildura and throughout the North West District, which have always been accepted with great interest. I have over 2000 stamps of Famous Freemasons from around the world and have a large collection of stamps used to commemorate Masonic anniversaries and first day covers. I also have a collection of 200 stamps depicting the Symbols of Freemasonry from A-Z." says Eddie.

"When I first started to collect Freemasonry stamps it was very hard to research, but it was always interesting and took up many hours. Now with the internet and books on Famous Freemasons around the world, you can easily find most of what you want. One of my greatest finds from researching Masons on stamps is that Ho Chi Minh was initiated in 1922 in Lodge *La Federation Universelle* in Paris [Grand Orient of France] under his original name, Nguyen That Thanh," Eddie says. "My greatest joy in collecting Freemasonry stamps is the research and the knowledge I get from that research, especially communicating with other collectors of Freemason stamps around the world, and displaying my collection in Lodge rooms around the North West District."



'This stamp was released to commemorate the bicentennial of the Royal Engineers in Gibraltar. The stamp was designed by Bro. Alfred George Rymer and incorporates a number of Masonic symbols: the level, plumb rule, ashler and Jacobs ladder.'



'Stamps depicting symbols of Freemasonry are hard to find. I went through the three volumes of Stanley Gibbons albums looking for the stamps that depict a Masonic symbol.'



'I have some early American Cancellation Stamps. In the 1860s American post offices used their own home-made cancellation stamps, made from cork.'

'If the Postmaster was a Freemason he would cut out a figure of the square and compasses or other Masonic symbols. These are now very hard to find.'

“ All science is either physics or stamp collecting. ”  
 - Ernest Rutherford

All photographs by Kerrie Giddings

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## NEW ISSUES

Again, in this issue, the number of new issues which are applicable of a Masonic collection are very limited. The following listings were found in the January and February issues of Linn's Stamp News.

Burundi – 12/30/11 (a catch-up of many issues):

971-5 – Composers – 4 stamps and a S/S – include Mozart and Beethoven

996-1000 – Aviators – 4 stamps and a S/S – include Byrd and Lindbergh

Ecuador – 9/26/12 – 2078/9 – Alexander von Humboldt

France – 11/2/12 – 4296 – Frederick A. Bartholdi and his Lion of Belfort Sculpture

Great Britain – 6/27/12 - 3425-32 – British Monarchs including James I and Edward VII

Isle of Man – 10/2/12 – Souvenir Sheet containing 2 stamps for the Antarctic Expedition of Robert Falcon Scott.

Bro. Burden also identified another new issue site to me – [www.worldstampnews.com](http://www.worldstampnews.com)

## FREEMASONRY IN CHINA

Several decades ago, I met up with Bro. Edward Beecher of Belmont, Massachusetts who was an avid Freemason and dabbled in the hobby of Masonic Philately. His specialties were Irish Masonic covers and the Freemasonry of China and Japan. He was Treasurer of the Ming Te Lodge of Perfection, T'ung Te Chapter of Rose Croix, Hou Te Council of Kadosh, Ch'ung Te Consistory, and the Valley of Peking, all of the Orient of China. He was particularly proud of a Scroll. 8" x 48" which was on a roll, embroidered silk on parchment with characters painted in black on red spotted with gold leaf dots.

This beautiful scroll was hand painted and made by one of the foremost and famous of all present Chinese Calligraphers. It was copied exactly from the original scroll which had been presented as a gift to the Scottish Rite Temple in Peking, China in 1919 by President Hau Shih-Ch'ang of China. He was present during the political struggles of China in 1917 and the one who had entered World War I on the side of the Allies. On October 10, 1921 the Republic of China honored President Hau Shih-Ch'ang with a set of postage stamps to note the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Post Office - they show his portrait.

A classical translation of the Characters on this Scroll is:

If you do not live according to the Principles of the Compass and the Square, you cannot live a life of Moral Rectitude.

A literal translation of the Characters is:

If you do not use the Compass and the Square, you cannot accomplish Squares and Circles.

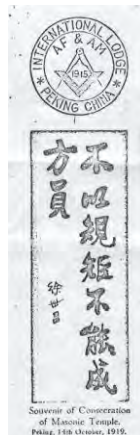
An additional motto also used by the Masonic Temple in Peking was:

Within the Four Seas all Men are Brothers.

The above was written by the Sage Mencius, a disciple of Confucius (551-479 B.C.). Mencius lived during the period of 372-259 B.C. In accordance with the above, Chinese Brethren believe that Masonic origins trace back to around the above mentioned period – this was in the Han Dynasty. One of the Lodges in Taiwan, China is named after the Han Dynasty – Han Lodge U.D., F. & A.M.



Bro. Beecher and Scroll



Souvenir of Consecration of Masonic  
Masonic Temple, Peking 1919

Miniature replica of a Scroll presented by Hau Shih-Chang



## COLOR CANCELLATIONS ON THE 1869 SERIES: MASONIC

Our President, Bro. Gene Fricks has sent in an article that appeared in the August 2012 US Cancellation Club News. There were seven illustrations picturing Masonic Fancy Cancels on stamps of the 1869 series; all but two of them are shown here along with the complete text of Ed Field's article.

The 1972 sale of the Greenebaum collection of Masonic cancels (Siegel Auction 406) offered nearly 300 lots, including 38 such cancels on 1869 stamps. Only two of those 38 cancels were in colors other than black. Over more recent years I have been fortunate to locate and acquire four additional colored Masonic cancels on this series. All six are illustrated below. I know of no others.

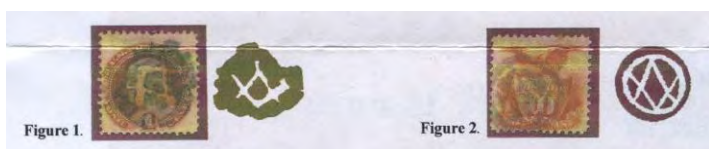


Figure 3

Figure 1 shows the green negative compass & square of McMinnville, TN on the 1-cent stamp. For an on-cover example of the 3-cent stamp see Frajola's 1986 sale of the Eno collection. To my knowledge, these are the only two examples extant. Figure 2 shows a pale magenta negative compass & square of unknown origin on the 10-cent stamp (ex Eno). It is the only known example of a colored Masonic cancel on a high-value 1869 stamp. Figure 3 shows the negative blue compass & square of Painted Post NY. At least one other on-cover example exists, as well as several off-color examples.



Figure 7

Figure 4 shows the red compass & square of Charlestown MA. This cancel is not particularly scarce in black, but only three examples are known in red, the other two being on cover. Figure 5 (not shown here) shows a red cancel of interwoven negative triangles, origin unknown. For the only other known example (certified as Masonic) see Siegel's October 2011 sale of the Lachder collection. Figure 6 (not shown here) shows a cover from Owego NY bearing a cancel similar in shape to the "bright green" 1869 "keystone" tracing shown by Skinner & Eno (PO-Ks1). Was the cancel really intended to depict a Masonic keystone? Or just a Square? Only the postal employee who carved it knew. With the exception of the negative triangles shown in Figure 2, all of the above cancels are listed by Skinner & Eno.

We conclude with Figure 7 that appears to be a bold strike of the magenta compass and square illustrated in Skinner & Eno and attributed to Chelsea, VT. I purchased it 15 years ago from a knowledgeable and widely respected dealer in classic U.S. covers. However, the cancel is a FAKE. The faker apparently came to possess a genuine Chelsea cover bearing a red target cancel so faint as to be discernable only under high magnification. The faker probably modeled his carving after tracing FR-M4c 22 in S&E's handbook. The color difference between the cancel and CDS provides further evidence of the fakery. This illustrates how one must be careful to examine fancy cancels.

## JOHN PULLING, JR.

Your Editor recently found a dissertation in the 1909 "Abstract of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts defining the Masonic and Patriotic Events in the life of Bro. John Pulling, Jr. Bro. Pulling was the Patriot who was entrusted with the hanging of one or two lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church (actually th Christ Church as explained in the article) in Boston to signal to Bro. Paul Revere whether the British were coming by Land or by sea. The 1975 24 cent regular issue stamp which pictures the Old North Church can be used for a collection page for Bro Pulling. I will try to summarize that 20 page dissertation in one page here.

John Pulling was born on Boston, February 18, 1737 to John and Martha Pulling. His father was a Warden in Christ Church in 1752 and afterward for a number of years as a vestryman. John, Jr. received his education in the Boston schools and became a dealer in furs which he purchased in Canada and Newfoundland and merchandise imported from Europe. He also fitted out vessels and was, at one time, the captain of the schooner "King Fisher" plying between Louisburg and Boston. He also served as one of the seven assessors of the town. Following his first marriage he was brought into intimate relationship with Jeremiah Lee, a merchant and ardent patriot – they we both members of the Committee of Safety. Following the death of his first wife, he re-married to a wife as devoted to the cause of liberty as her husband. John was one of the most fearless and devoted asserters and defenders of liberty as the forerunners of American Independence. He and Paul Revere were often mentioned together as officers in the Continental Service and as members of the Committee of Safety. Both of them were appointed to a sub-committee to collect the names of all persons who opposed the rights and liberties of this country. In April 1775 he and Paul Revere "agreed that if the British went out by water, two lanthorns should show in the North Church Steeple and if by land, one as a signal." "The signal was a lanthorne hung out in the upper window of the tower of the North Church towards Charlestown." Following this event, John Pulling fled to Cohasset disguised as a fisherman to avoid capture. The British confiscated his property and occupied his house. He remained in concealment until the siege of Boston when he returned and again actively engaged with Revere and other patriots in their work. He never recovered from the sacrifice of his business and property in the cause of liberty and in the last years of his life, had to eke out a living by acting as an auctioneer. He died in Boston on January 25, 1787.

John Pulling, Jr. became a Mason in the Lodge of St. Andrew's being voted to receive the degrees on June 13, 1761 and was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on July 9, 1761. He apparently received his Entered Apprentice Degree on the same evening as the vote of acceptance. He was raised to the degree of Master Mason on October 21, 1761 and on December 10, 1761 was appointed one of a committee to audit accounts. He was a member of the Lodge of St. Andrew's on the evening of April 18, 1775 when he hung the lantern in the belfry of Christ's Church on Salem Street. (The fact that the lanterns were hung in the belfry of Christ's Church and not the Old North Church is based upon a study conducted by the Grand Lodge of church appellations at the time.) His name does not appear again in the records until the funeral of Grand Master of Masons in North America, Rt. Wor. Jeremy Gridley, on September 12, 1767. He is recorded as serving as Grand Steward and Junior and Senior Grand Deacon in the 1778-9 time frame.

## THE MORMON MASONIC CONNECTION

The following article has been condensed from a paper prepared by Bro. Christopher L. Murphy, BF, a member of our Unit, for the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Although not common knowledge, Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon religion, was definitely a Freemason. There is also very strong evidence that his successor, Brigham Young, was also a member of the Order. Volumes have been written on Mormonism and today it is accepted by many people as a valid and honorable branch of Christianity. However, it has not found favor with the established Christian Church. Nevertheless, some great people have been Mormons.

I leave it to the reader to research the various aspects of Mormonism. In historic summary, Joseph Smith claimed that he had “spiritual visions” during the early 1800s whereby he was instructed to form a new church. He was subsequently visited by an angel who directed him to recover a number of “gold plates” that were buried in a stone box near his home in Manchester, New York. Smith recovered the plates on September 22, 1823. They were inscribed in a strange language which Smith was given the “grace” to translate into English. He had the plates for a period of one year and then returned them to where they had been obtained. They were then taken back by the angel. Smith’s resulting translation of the plates became the *Book of Mormon* and the foundation, as it were, of the Mormon Church.

One of the highly unacceptable practices of the early Mormon Church was polygamy, often with wives being very young (less than 18 years of age). However, it must be kept in mind that originally polygamy was sort of a Biblically directed “social welfare system.” Widows and other women without a means to support themselves were “married to a man who was able to provide for them.” In this sense, polygamy was effectively an act of compassion. Women to this day have difficulties in male-dominated societies. For certain, in the early 1800s women in America had nowhere near the status they presently have. Joseph Smith’s adoption of the age-old practice of polygamy can therefore be both effectively understood and rationalized from a religious standpoint.

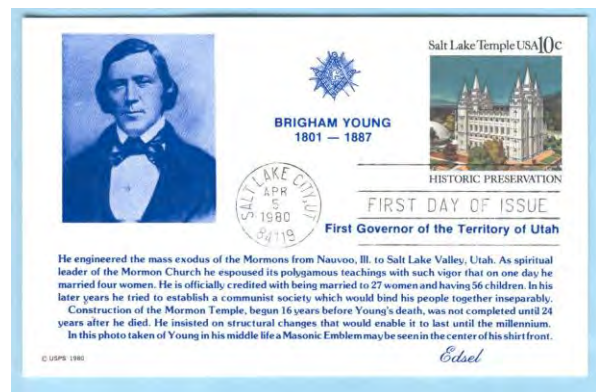
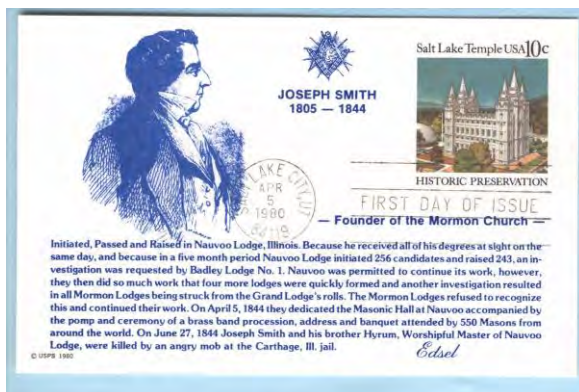
It can be certainly reasoned that Smith was a very charismatic and impressive individual. He amassed a large following, centered in Nauvoo, Illinois. In 1844 he campaigned for the Presidency of the United States. According to Wikipedia, he considered the United States Constitution and especially the Bill of Rights to have been inspired by God. He believed a strong central government through democracy to be crucial to the nation’s well-being – although he also taught that a theocratic monarchy was the ideal form of government. In foreign affairs he was an expansionist, although he viewed “expansion” as brotherhood.

In the spring of 1844, a rift developed between Smith and six of his close associates. As a result, Smith excommunicated them. They formed their own church and procured a grand jury indictment against Smith for polygamy and other crimes. Serious unrest followed culminating in Joseph Smith and his brother, Hiram, being placed in jail at Carthage, Illinois, on the charge of treason. On June 27, 1844, an armed mob stormed the jail and both Joseph and his brother were murdered. As a result, Joseph Smith became the first candidate for the Presidency of the United States that was assassinated.

Brigham Young succeeded Smith as the church leader. Young and a fairly small group of followers made their way to Utah Territory where they settled in July 1847. The US stamp issued in 1947 for the centennial celebration of Utah shows Brigham Young arriving in Utah – at the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The words “This is the Place” shown on the stamp are attributed to him. Over the years the church flourished. Young subsequently served as the first governor of Utah Territory.

As to Freemasonry, Smith initially identified with the anti-Masonic movement that began in 1827 as a result of the Morgan abduction in Batavia, New York. Morgan’s widow, Lucinda Pendleton, subsequently became one of Smith’s plural wives. Much later, apparently after the anti-Masonic sentiments subsided, a number of Smith’s followers had become Masons and in 1841 requested a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Illinois to form a Lodge at Nauvoo, Illinois. This request was granted and a Lodge was formed in March 1842. Joseph Smith received the Entered Apprentice Degree on March 15, 1842. The next day, Smith and his counselor, Sidney Rigdon, were made “Masons at sight” by Grand Master Abraham Jones. Smith later served as the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

In August 1842, the Grand Lodge of Illinois revoked the Nauvoo Lodge dispensation as a result of irregularities. By this time 286 candidates had ben initiated, of which 256 had received the Master Mason’s Degree. Whatever the issue, the dispensation was restored in November of the same year. A short time later, dispensations for two other Lodges in Nauvoo were granted. When the Grand Lodge met on October 3, 1843, severe criticism was raised on the activities of the Nauvoo Lodges (now referred to as Mormon Lodges). Consequently, the three Nauvoo Lodge dispensations were revoked along with charters granted to the two Mormon Lodges in Iowa. The Nauvoo Lodges continued to work and were declared clandestine. According to Masonic scholars, Smith embraced Freemasonry because he thought its rituals and teachings were closer to those of ancient Biblical times than to current church practices. Smith incorporated a lot of Masonic rituals into his church rituals. Smith remained a Freemason until his death; however, later Mormon leaders distanced themselves from Freemasonry.



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### The Truth is Stranger than Fiction

Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternelle Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He obviously invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.